

5 December 2003

The Secretary
Joint Committee on National Capital and
and External Territories,
Inquiry into the Adequacy of Funding
for Australia's Antarctic Program,
Parliament of Australia
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Our Ref: Y1161tsc1

Re: Submission to the Inquiry into the Adequacy of Funding for Australia's Antarctic Program

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter provides a submission on behalf of Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd to the Inquiry into the Adequacy of Funding for Australia's Antarctic Program.

Godden Mackay Logan has been closely associated with the conservation activities of the AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation since 1996. Our firm was the author of the Conservation Management Plan presently guiding the heritage management of the Mawson's Huts Historic Site, and we have been active in presenting a strong case for the extension of the role of the Australian Antarctic Division program to include cultural heritage.

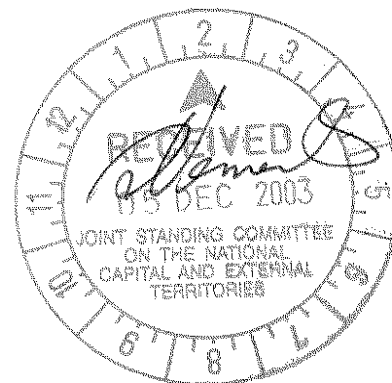
The site of Mawson's Historic Huts is the only such site surviving from the Heroic Era of Antarctic Exploration. The site is of extraordinary heritage significance for a range of historic, scientific, technical, social and symbolic values.

There has been strong support and co-operation from the Australian Antarctic Division for conservation measures formerly instigated at the site, and for the principles and recommendations contained in the Conservation Management Plan. However, the Australian Antarctic Division has been seriously constrained by lack of resources with respect to cultural heritage matters. In order that the Australian Antarctic Division adequately conserves the Mawson's Hut Historic Site in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Conservation Management Plan, and in accordance with the Australian Government's obligations under the Antarctic Treaty, sufficient resources must be allocated to it to ensure that ongoing conservation programs can be maintained and new ones instituted.

Recent amendments to the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* have resulted in an extension of protections afforded to places of cultural heritage value. Mawson's Huts Historic Site is likely to be listed on the National Heritage List or the Commonwealth Heritage List (or both) when they come into operation in 2004. Under the amended Act the Commonwealth will be required to prepare a Plan of Management for the Site. This will require the allocation of resources to the Australian Antarctic Division, as will the management of the Site in accordance with any requirements detailed in that Plan of Management.

Allocation of resources to facilitate regular inspection, monitoring and maintenance will promote effective asset management and reduce total physical conservation costs.

The allocation of resources to the Australian Antarctic Division for cultural heritage management purposes would result in the conservation of an extraordinary example of Australia's cultural heritage. Furthermore, It



would help the Australian Antarctic Division to meet the following specific goals listed in the Terms of Reference:

Enhancing Australia's Influence in the Antarctic Treaty System

Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition was the genesis of Australia's claim to approximately 42% of Antarctica. Under the terms of the Antarctic Treaty, the Australian Antarctic Division has responsibility for the care, control and management of this area (the Australian Antarctic Territory) on behalf of the Australian Government. This area includes the Eastern Sector where Mawson's Huts Historic Site is located.

As Mawson's Hut and the Memorial Cross are identified on the Antarctic Treaty List of Historic Sites and Monuments, the Australian Antarctic Division has responsibility under Annex V of the Protocol on Environmental Protection (the Madrid Protocol) to ensure that the structures are not damaged, removed or destroyed.

Failure to allocate sufficient resources to meet the obligations of the Treaty would undermine Australia's influence in the Antarctic Treaty system.

Protecting the Antarctic Environment

The 'Antarctic Environment' comprises a combination of natural and historical/cultural landscapes and elements. The distinctive natural environment is inseparable from the rare remaining relics associated with the early exploration of the continent. A failure to allocate resources to Australia's Antarctic Program sufficient to conserve the Mawson's Huts Historic Site would result in a failure to protect the total Antarctic environment.

Conducting Scientific Research of Practical, Economic or National Significance

The Mawson's Hut Historic Site is entered in the Register of the National Estate, maintained by the Australian Heritage Commission, for (among other things) its scientific values.

The allocation of resources to Australia's Antarctic Program for the conservation of the Mawson's Huts Historic Site would facilitate research of national significance into the history of Australian Antarctic exploration and the history of scientific endeavour itself.

We attach a copy of a letter forwarded to Senator Ian Macdonald in July 2001 that reiterates many of the arguments detailed above, and which demonstrates the urgency of the need for the allocation of increased funding to the Australian Antarctic Division for cultural heritage purposes.

Yours sincerely,

Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd



(Prof) Richard Mackay, AM
Managing Director

Encl: Letter to Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald dated 17 July 2001

17 July, 2001

Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald
Commonwealth Parliament
C/- PO Box 2185
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Our Ref: Y1161imc1

Re: Mawsons Huts Historic Site: Role and Responsibility of the Australian Antarctic Division

Dear Senator,

As you may recall, when we met at Parliament House some months ago, I promised to write to you regarding the Mawson's Huts Historic Site and the role and responsibility of the Australian Antarctic Division.

By way of background, this firm has been involved in the conservation activities of the AAP Mawsons Huts Foundation since 1996 and we are the authors of the Conservation Management Plan which has recently been completed to the satisfaction of both the Australian Antarctic Division and the Australian Heritage Commission.

An important issue which arose during the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan is that, while there is a high degree of goodwill towards the conservation of the Mawsons Huts Historic Site, cultural heritage is not currently identified as a core function of the Australian Antarctic Division program in its support of the Australian Antarctic Program. Further, the Eastern Sector of the Australian Antarctic Territory is not currently a priority for resource allocation.

There has been strong support and cooperation from the Australian Antarctic Division for both the recent conservation programs at the site and for the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan. However, there is no ongoing program, nor is there any current obligation or guarantee for resourcing of cultural heritage conservation, as, strictly speaking, it sits outside both the statutory role and current Government policy responsibility of the Division.

This issue is summarised in the attached page from one of the three 'Forward' documents of the Conservation Management Plan. The reason that this matter is outlined in the Forward, rather than the body text is, we understand, that that Division would be unable to endorse the plan if specific recommendations about its role, responsibilities and resourcing were included, as these are properly a matter for Government.

The purpose of this letter is to re-acquaint you with this issue and, based on our conversation, to provide you with the information you need to pursue the required statutory amendment that will extend the role and responsibility of the Australian Antarctic Division to include cultural heritage management generally and, specifically, the conservation of Mawsons Huts Historic Site in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan.

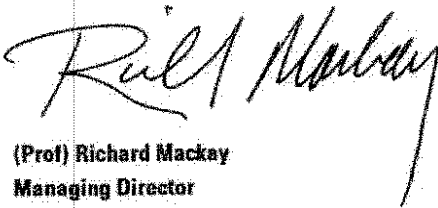


Godden Mackay Logan

Should you wish, I would be delighted to meet with you or relevant government officers, to explain this matter more fully.

With kind regards, yours sincerely,

Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Mackay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

(Prof) Richard Mackay
Managing Director



This Conservation Management Plan has been funded by the AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation and prepared by Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd, heritage consultants, in association with International Conservation Services Pty Ltd; Hughes Trueman Reinhold Pty Ltd, Consulting Engineers; the Research Centre for Materials Conservation at the Australian Museum; and the Cultural Heritage Research Centre at the University of Canberra.

The AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation was established in 1996 by the Australian Associated Press (AAP) Group of companies to conserve in perpetuity the Mawson's Huts Historic Site. The Foundation, which raised in excess of \$2M from the public and corporate sector, together with financial assistance from the Australian Government and with the co-operation and assistance of the Australian Heritage Commission and the Australian Antarctic Division, funded conservation expeditions in 1996/97 and 1997/98 to undertake conservation works on the site. However, the Foundation cannot resource the full range of conservation programs required for Mawson's Huts.

Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition was the genesis of Australia's claim to approximately 42% of Antarctica. Under the terms of the Antarctic Treaty, the Australian Antarctic Division has responsibility for, and on behalf of, the Australian Government, the care, control and management of this area, known as the Australian Antarctic Territory. This area includes the Eastern Sector where Mawson's Huts Historic Site is located.

As Mawson's Hut and the Memorial Cross are listed on the Antarctic Treaty Historic Sites and Monuments, the Australian Antarctic Division has responsibility under Annex V of the Protocol on Environmental Protection (the Madrid Protocol) to ensure that the structures are not damaged, removed or destroyed.

Conservation of cultural heritage is not currently identified as a core function of the Australian Antarctic Division in its support of the Australian Antarctic Program. In addition, the Eastern Sector of the Australian Antarctic Territory is not currently a priority for resource allocation.

In recognition of these factors, this Conservation Management Plan identifies policies and programs for the conservation of Mawson's Huts Historic Site, but does not specify the responsible authority, as this is a matter for the Australian Government to determine.

However, in view of the outstanding heritage value of the site, obligations under the Antarctic Treaty, the Australian Government's commitment that Commonwealth agencies must be responsible for cultural heritage under their control and the current roles and responsibilities of the Australian Antarctic Division, the Foundation and Godden Mackay Logan believe that the Division should become responsible for the long-term conservation of the Mawson's Huts Historic Site, through the implementation of this Conservation Management Plan.

The Conservation Management Plan is therefore prefaced by two overarching recommendations:

- **The Australian Government should extend the role and responsibility of the Australian Antarctic Division to include conservation of Mawson's Huts Historic Site in accordance with this Conservation Management Plan; and**
- **Resources should be allocated to the Australian Antarctic Division to enable implementation of the Conservation Management Plan's policies and recommendations.**

David Jensen
Chairman

Richard Mackay
Managing Director



